

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

April 28, 2006

SENTENCE IMPOSED ON FOUR DEFENDANTS IN OCDETF CASE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced the recent sentencings in United States District Court in Benton of four defendants in their roles in a large methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution conspiracy centered in White, Gallatin, and Saline Counties. These convictions and sentences resulted from a long term and on-going investigation into the manufacture of methamphetamine in Southeastern Illinois by the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. Thus far, that investigation, which began in 2001, has resulted in the federal indictment of 65 individuals in related cases who, in total, were responsible for the manufacture or attempted manufacture of the equivalent of over 600,000 grams of methamphetamine.

TONY W. WATTS, age 53, of Carmi, Illinois, was sentenced on April 18, 2006, to a term of 240 months (20 years) imprisonment, a fine of \$200, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of 10 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

CHRISTOPHER W. WILLIAMS, age 30, of Harrisburg Illinois, was sentenced on April 26, 2006, to a term of 240 months imprisonment, a fine of \$250, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of 10 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

SEAN L. LOGSDON, age 36, of Equality, Illinois, was sentenced on April 18, 2006, to a term of 240 months imprisonment, a fine of \$200, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of 10 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

EUGENIA K. HORTON, age 41, of Shawneetown, Illinois, was sentenced on April 19, 2006, to a term of 121 months imprisonment, a fine of \$200, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of 5 years supervised release to follow her incarceration.

Under Federal law, parole has been abolished and defendants are required to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

In addition to the 65 defendants who have been indicted federally, over 50 additional defendants have been prosecuted in related cases in state court by the State's Attorneys in White, Gallatin, and Saline Counties.

Since the investigation and prosecutions began, law enforcement agencies in the three counties have seen at least an 80 percent drop in the number of methamphetamine labs found in those counties.

The Iron Chef investigation is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) operation and is currently being led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police, the White County Sheriff's Department, the Carmi Police Department, the Shawneetown Police Department, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, the Multi-Agency Drug Enforcement Unit of the Saline County Sheriff's Department, the Harrisburg Police Department, the Eldorado Police Department, the Galatia Police Department, the Posey County, Indiana, Narcotics Task Force, the White County State's Attorney's Office, the Gallatin County State's Attorney's Office, and the Saline County State's Attorney's Office. The OCDETF program targets large drug-trafficking organization.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.